

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 04164 031157Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /031 W
-----084949 040242Z /65

R 030821Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO USDA/FAS WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9730
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4164

TOFAS 77
FOR NVOTNY, G&F, FCA
FROM AG OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: PRC GRAIN TRADE AND CROP PROSPECTS

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PAPERS, THE PRC HAS MADE A SECOND SALE OF 100,000 MT OF RICE TO MALAYSIA FOR DELIVERY LATER THIS YEAR (REF TOFAS 70). LOCAL TRADE SOURCES BELIEVE DELIVERY WILL BE LARGELY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, NEW CROP RICE.
2. RECENT OFFERS BY LOCAL TRADERS TO PURCHASE PRC RICE HAVE BEEN REFUSED. TRADERS BELIEVE THE REFUSAL DUE TO TIGHT RICE SUPPLIES IN CHINA.
3. IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH HIGH LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN FINDLEY AND MADIGAN WERE TOLD CHINA WOULD BE BUYING GRAIN. TIMING OF PURCHASES WAS NOT DISCUSSED BUT THE CONGRESSMEN ASSUMED PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE RELATIVELY SOON.
4. DISAGREE WITH RECENT STATEMENTS THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR PRC

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WINTER WHEAT CROP IS VERY GOOD. WE BELIEVE AN AVERAGE CROP IS POSSIBLE PROVIDED PRECIPITATION IS TIMELY THIS SPRING AND LATE FROST DOES NOT OCCUR (REF TOFAS 220 AND 64). THIS OPINION SEEMINGLY A REINFORCED BY RECENT CHINESE PRESS STATEMENTS WHICH COMPLAIN OF THE CONDITION OF THE CROP IN A NUMBER OF MAJOR PRODUCING PROVINCES, INCLUDING HOPEH, HONAN, KIANGSU, SHANSI, SHENSI, AND SZECHWAN.

ERISMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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